

FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the Horizon Board of Education Monthly Meetings

May, 2020

A message from Jim Hack, Horizon School Division Board of Education Chair:

We are well into Horizon School Division's grad season, and while graduation ceremonies have been postponed or held in much different ways this year due to the pandemic, we want to be sure that we can acknowledge and celebrate our Class of 2020 in every way available to us.

As a Board, we are so proud of our students' accomplishments, and the dedication they have shown to achieve their high school graduation! Although we cannot be together to celebrate in person, our thoughts and congratulations are with you all.

- Jim Hack, Board Chair

May 2020 Regular Meeting

A regular monthly meeting of the Board took place via video and teleconference on Wednesday, May 20. Jim Hack (Chair), Linda Mattock (Vice-Chair), David Holinaty, Jennifer Lemky, Mark Fedak, Lori-Anne Proznick, Christine Gradin, Cheryl Vertefeuille, Paul Crow-Buffalo, and Albert Pinacie were in attendance for this meeting via videoconference and phone.

Director of Education / CEO, Kevin Garinger, Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sarah Reding, Superintendent of Operational Services / COO, Justin Arendt, and Deputy Director, Randy MacLEAN joined the meeting to provide reports.

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school graduation!"*

*- Jim Hack,
Board Chair*



Discussion Items:

- COVID-19
- Families in Need
- 2020-21 Budget Review
- Special Meetings
- And more...

COVID-19 and Supplemental Learning

During the regular meeting of May 20, Director of Education Kevin Garinger shared updates and information regarding the division's COVID-19 response, graduation celebrations, Horizon's Supplemental Learning Plan, technology support for students, Response Planning Team updates, and staff support and other considerations. Staff, families, and community members are encouraged to continue to visit horizonsd.ca for regular updates, or call **1-306-682-2558** for Horizon's Communication Centre Hotline with any questions or concerns.

Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee Chair, Mark Fedak, shared a report from the committee's May 4 meeting. This committee includes Nathan Bitternose, Wil Lengyel, Albert Pinacie, and Chair Jim Hack and Vice Chair Linda Mattock as ex-officio members. During their meeting, the committee reviewed Horizon's revenue and expenses for Quarter 2.

Human Resource Services Update

Deputy Director of Education, Randy MacLEAN, shared plans for staffing in the 2020-21 school year, and shared updates on *collective bargaining for the Saskatchewan Teachers' Association (STF).

* [As of May 21, STF members voted in favour of ratification of their agreement.](#)

2020-21 Budget

Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sarah Reding, shared the proposed budget for 2020-2021, and led the Board in discussions.

2020 Board Elections

Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sarah Reding, is working as Returning Officer for the upcoming Board elections scheduled in the fall. She led discussions, including a discussion about potential polling locations in Horizon communities.

Operational Services Update

Superintendent of Operational Services / COO, Justin Arendt, shared an update regarding business continuity planning within Transportation Services, Facility Services, and Information Services. Operational staff continues to support a number of needs across the system created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Special Meetings - May, 2020

Horizon's Board held Special Meetings on May 6 and May 27. During these meetings, Trustees discussed budget proposals, COVID-19 related updates, and a plan for Horizon staff to return to work on a voluntary basis in line with Phase 3 of the Provincial Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. At this time, the Board plans to hold regular check-in Special Meetings on a regular basis.

June 16, 2020 - Final Day of Supplemental Learning in Horizon

Tuesday, June 16, will be the final day for teacher-directed Supplemental Learning in Horizon School Division. The decision to bring Supplemental Learning to a close comes from guidelines prepared by the Provincial Education Sector's Response Planning Team (RPT), which includes representatives from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF), the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials (SASBO), the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents (LEADS), and the Ministry of Education.

Students will have until Tuesday, June 23, to complete any remaining assignments and submit their work for grading. They will be able to continue to connect with their teachers and support staff on an individual basis up to and including June 23. We encourage students and families to continue their engagement with teacher-directed Supplemental Learning right up to June 16, and complete any and all requirements from their teachers up to June 23.

We do not yet know how this pandemic will develop in the weeks and months ahead. We do not yet know exactly how this will affect our educational services in the fall. We expect that one of three scenarios will exist: a full return, a partial or modified return, or no return, which equates to fully online learning. After June 16, the work of our teachers, support staff, and other personnel will see a shift in focus toward completing the grading responsibilities to bring closure to the 2019-20 school year. They will also begin planning and preparing for the three possible scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year. We appreciate your understanding related to the time that will be needed to plan for delivering PreK to 12 education.

Through the sharing of our stakeholders and the expertise and collaboration of our staff, we will build a solid foundation to guide our system in the model necessary to ensure the learning and health needs of all involved. By shifting from teacher-directed Supplemental Learning before the summer break, we allow our teachers and other staff to be fully engaged in this planning, and to be as prepared as possible to start the coming school year. Staff can expect further communication and specific information from their direct supervisors and my office as we move this work forward.

Phase 3 of the Provincial Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan is scheduled to begin on June 8. Horizon is finalizing detailed processes to allow for staff to begin returning to their workplaces – on a voluntary basis – with strict adherence to all current Health guidelines regarding COVID-19. Our first priority in this planning is to ensure the safety of our staff and their families. This will be a gradual and cautious return to work sites for only Horizon staff, so students will not be part of this Phase of “Re-entering Horizon”. The details of this plan will be shared with all staff by June 3, 2020.

[\(Click here to see the complete Memo to Families and Staff on this topic, shared on May 27, 2020.\)](#)

Submissions & Feedback

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact the Horizon School Division Communication Services Officer at lance.hiltz@horizonsd.ca.

We want this newsletter to be as informative and beneficial as possible, so feedback on how we can improve is always welcome.

Thanks for reading!

Next Regular Board Meeting Scheduled for June 17, 2020

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